

## **Pancreatic Resection Surgeon Volume Comments**

General Surgeon Volume Comments for all hospitals

Massachusetts General Hospital

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The AHRQ definition restricts procedures to those with (1) a diagnosis of cancer, and (2) full resection of the pancreas. We prefer and have followed the Leapfrog standard, which does not differentiate between cancer and non-cancer diagnoses. In many cases, the growth involved may pose a high risk for becoming cancerous, so that it is preferred to remove it before malignancy develops. The Leapfrog definition also includes certain partial (proximal) resections but does not include others (distal). The same surgeons perform the operations for cancer as for other diagnoses, and the same surgeons do partial and full resections. We would note that in FY 2004 MGH surgeons performed 42 distal pancreatectomies in addition to the totals shown here.